

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15
SIG-03 SY-05 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /094 R

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EUR/SOV: L WILLEMS
EUR/WE: J DOBBINS

-----047421 100354Z /75R

P 100102Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T STATE 061390

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PINS, PBOR, ASEC, AVCE, AEMR, DJ, ET, YS, CU

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET AND CUBAN-SUPPORTED
TERRORISM IN DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 299

1. REFTEL REPORTS STATEMENT OF FRENCH GENERAL PERIER THAT
THERE ARE THREE MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE DE LIBERATION AFAR
(MPLA) CAMPS IN ETHIOPIA NEAR DJIBOUTI FRONTIER IN WHICH
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SOVIET AND CUBAN ADVISORS ARE TRAINING AFARS IN WEAPONS,
EXPLOSIVES, AND URBAN TERRORIST TECHNIQUES, AND THAT
FURTHER, THERE IS A HIGH PROBABILITY OF TERRORIST ATTEMPTS
IN DJIBOUTI BEGINNING AROUND APRIL FIRST. WE HAVE NO
OTHER CONFIRMATION OF THIS VERY DISTURBING REPORT.

2. REQUEST CHARGE TELL GENERAL PERIER THAT WE ARE CON-

CERNED TO KNOW THAT SOVIETS AND CUBANS ARE TRAINING MPLA MEMBERS IN WEAPONS, EXPLOSIVES AND IN TERRORIST TECHNI-

QUES. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW RELIABLE HE BELIEVES THIS INTELLIGENCE OF SOVIET AND CUBAN PARTICIPATION TO BE. IF HE HAS GROUNDS TO PLACE FULL FAITH IN INFORMATION, OR IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THE STORY IS ACCURATE, WE INTEND TO DISCUSS QUESTION WITH GOF THROUGH POLITICAL

CHANNELS. ASSUME THIS WOULD NOT EMBARRASS PERIER, ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT CHECK WITH HIM AS WE DONOTNEED TO MENTION HIS NAME AS SOURCE.

3. FYI: QUESTION OF WHETHER SOVIETS AND CUBANS INSTIGATE ACTUAL TERRORISM IS MATTER OF STRONG CONCERN TO USG. EXCERPT FROM RECENT CIA STUDY "INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THE PROBLEM OF PATRON STATE SUPPORT" FOLLOWS: QTE THE USSR AS LONG BEEN ON RECORD AS OPPOSING POLITICAL TERRORISM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY. FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL REASONS, HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS SUPPORT WHAT THEY REGARD AS LEGITIMATE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EVEN THOUGH THEY REALIZE THAT SOME OF THE AID--INCLUDING ARMS--GIVEN TO SUCH ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE DIVERTED TO TERRORIST GROUPS. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THEY HAVE ALSO FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO OPPOSE ANY GROUP WHOSE CAUSE IS FAVORED BY THE "PROGRESSIVE OR REVOLUTIONARY SECRET

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FORCES" THEY SEEK TO COURT. THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE THUS SUGGESTS A RATHER AMBIGUOUS PATTERN OF CONTACT AND INVOLVEMENT WITH SOME POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT PRACTICE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND, MORE CLEARLY WITH SOME STATES THAT CONDONE OR ENCOURAGE SUCH ACTIVITY. THE SOVIETS CLEARLY FIND THESE RELATIONSHIPS TO BE POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE INSTIGATED, ENCOURAGED, OR CARRIED OUT ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN RECENT YEARS. UNQTE.

4. WE TOO ARE CONCERNED BY MAJOR QUESTIONS WHICH ARE RAISED BY REFTEL AND HOPE TO ADDRESS THEM IN THE COURSE OF THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. VANCE

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